

ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

v.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN

SATURDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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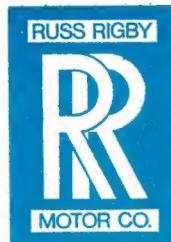
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OUR VISITORS

Huddersfield Town, in comparison with many other prominent Football League Clubs, is quite a 'new' club. It was only formed in 1908 and after one season in the N. Eastern League and one in the Midland League, the club rather unexpectedly gained admission to the Football League 2nd Division in 1910; it then began a career which in a short while was remarkable.

By 1913 it had reached fifth place, and in 1920 it was good enough to gain promotion to Division 1. Soon it was 'news', for in 1923 it had placed itself in the honours list by finishing in third place, then by becoming champions for three successive seasons — creating a League record — and twice more runners-up — all in five seasons.

Their ground, known as Leeds Road, is rated amongst the best six in the country. It has housed many FA Cup semi-finals: in 1936, 63,210 watched the 'semi' there between Arsenal and Grimsby. Until the more modern restrictions on crowds the

capacity was 70,000.

F.A. Cup performances of the Club were outstanding pre-war — being finalists in 1919-20, 1921-22, 1927-28, 1929-30 and 1937-38. In 1921-22 they beat Preston by 1-0 (a penalty scored by Smith, W. H.), but in 1937-38 when they again met Preston at Wembley, they lost by a penalty scored by George Mutch. When the Club met Arsenal at Wembley in 1929-30, the German 'Graf Zeppelin' floated over the pitch causing quite a sensation.

Many great players and managers have been connected with Huddersfield, such as the great Sam Wadsworth, Roy Goodall, Clem Stevenson, Alex Jackson, Bob Kelly, Alf Young, Denis Law and numerous others.

After Wigan's game at Huddersfield early in the season the Yorkshire club was reputed to have played every other Football League side in a Football League game at one time or another.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

WIGAN ATHLETIC v. YORK CITY

WEDNESDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Wigan Athletic Reserves v. Oldham Athletic Reserves

MONDAY, 19th FEBRUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 7-00 p.m.

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FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

JANUARY

Today we welcome Huddersfield Town to Springfield Park. The Yorkshire club are currently in the bottom half of the table, but I am sure they are a better side than their league position would indicate. Our match at Leeds Road was a particularly entertaining game, and I hope that today's affair is as enjoyable.

Wimbledon Game

At the time of going to press, the result of the Wimbledon game is not known, but one way or another the 4th Division is turning out to be a really first class race for promotion, and it is good to be among the front runners. One thing in our favour is the fact that we have played most of the top teams, whereas Barnsley still have to play Portsmouth twice,

Grimsby twice, as well as appear at Springfield Park. It certainly adds up to an intriguing situation.

Reserve Power

One of the most pleasing aspects of our season so far has been the willingness of the professionals who are out of the first team, but who really work hard and enjoy their run outs with the second team. This is one of the reasons why the Reserves are riding high in the Lancashire League. One thing for sure, second team manager Fred Eyre has been really delighted by their play. It all adds up to the really first class spirit we have at the Club at the present time.

Enjoy today's game.

IAN McNEILL.

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EDITORIAL

I have a great respect for the Football writer, "the Nick Duxburys and Harold Ashursts of this World". There are many hard working reporters—but hard work alone is not enough—no football writer can get anywhere without (1) enthusiasm, (2) accuracy and (3) ability to bring the match right before the readers eyes — to relive it again in printed words.

When the average spectator goes to a match he also wants to read about it afterwards. He wants everything in detail, the scorers, the gate, the strong and weak points of both teams and reference to his favourite players.

Quite often the reader, after scanning the football writers report is left with the impression that the latter attended a different match. Sometimes this arouses him to such a pitch that the only way he can relieve his feelings is to sit down and write a blistering letter to the newspaper telling the reporter exactly what he thinks of him.

Very often, this particular reader, like so many others, witnesses only what he wants to see during the game in question. In other words he

watched only his own team and he ignored the many moves of the opposition. This point of view also applies to referees. I once knew an ardent Latics fan who used to 'boo' the referee as he came on the pitch, just in case he was bad.

Reporters and referees have a very difficult task. Unlike Cyclops with his one eye, they must have a dozen eyes.

The reporter has to write what he believes to be the truth at all times. Match reporting is not his only chore, as a member of the free press he has to be totally independent, that is not easy when you are a Wigan man working for a Wigan paper and reporting on a Wigan team.

Anyway lads, keep up the good work. You do a good job, sometimes under difficult conditions away from home. If you fail to entertain a reader with your report, you can't fail to arouse his anger which he expresses at night in clubs and pubs, thereby reliving the game all over again. Yes, you do a good job for the game in general.

J.H.F.

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PEN PICTURES OF HUDDERSFIELD TOWN A.F.C.

TERRY ARMSTRONG (Midfield)

Joined Town from school and signed professional in July 1976. Strong, young midfield player with a number of first team matches behind him.

JIM BRANNAGAN (Midfield)

Joined Town last season from Oldham, having had experience of football in South Africa. Born in Davyhulme.

MALCOLM BROWN (Full-back)

Born in Salford, joined Town in 1977 from Bury. Operates down the right flank and enjoys moving forward.

PETER FLETCHER (Striker)

Signed from Stockport County in July, 1978. Previously with Hull City and Manchester United.

PAUL GARTLAND (Full-back)

Born in Shipley. Again joined Town as an apprentice, and signed professional in February 1977.

WAYNE GOLDTHORPE (Forward)

Born in Staincross. Came to Huddersfield Town from school, and signed professional in September 1975. Has made a number of first team appearances.

TERRY GRAY

Versatile player — born in Bradford. He joined Town as a professional in 1972, previously having played for England Schools. Won Town's Player of the Year award for the 1975/76 season, and is the Club Captain.

KEITH HANVEY

Joined Town from Grimsby in the close-season. Previously with Rochdale, Swansea and Manchester City.

ALAN STARLING (Goalkeeper)

Born in Barking. Came to Leeds Road from Northampton Town.

IAN HOLMES (Midfield)

Born in Wombwell. Signed in October last season from York City, and has been a regular member of the first team.

PETER HOWEY (Midfield)

Joined the club as an apprentice and signed professional in January 1976. The smallest player on Town's books.

KEVIN JOHNSON (Midfield)

Came from Hartlepool in September 1976. Born in Doncaster. Regular first team player and was voted Town's Player of the Year for the 1976/77 season.

PHIL SANDERCOCK (Full-back)

Joined Town in June 1977 from Torquay, and has been a regular member of the first team all last season.

PETER HART (Centre-half)

Born in Mexborough. Joined Town from school and signed professional in 1974. Made his first team debut while only 16, being the youngest player ever to appear in Town's first team.

DAVID SUTTON (Centre-half)

Born in Preston. Came to Town from Plymouth Argyle in April 1978.

RICHARD TAYLOR (Goalkeeper)

Local born, joined town on leaving school, having played for a local amateur team. Signed professional in 1974. Played for England Youth at International level.

CHRIS TOPPING

Signed during the close-season from York City where he made 356 consecutive appearances. Born in Bubwith, nr. Selby.

JOHN WATSON (Goalkeeper)

Signed professional forms for Town in March 1977, having previously played for this club as an amateur. Born in Dewsbury.

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LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



This afternoon's match against Huddersfield Town comes to you by courtesy of Wigan Athletic's 'unsung heroes'.

For there is little doubt that had the volunteers who have broken their backs prising Springfield Park from the weather's icy grip, not been so keen to turn out, today's match would have ended up another candidate for the pools panel.

And heroes they certainly are. They have responded not once, but four times to the Club's appeal for help and even the 'lost' battle to save the Torquay match three weeks ago failed to dampen their willingness to give up precious free time.

Ian McNeill's troops — recruited from the terraces — turned out in force to ensure Latics could begin their delayed home fixtures of the New Year by entertaining Division 4 top dogs Portsmouth, and their reward was a deserved 2-0 win.

The following week they were back again, this time on a Sunday morning, putting the straw back on at the

start of the three day fight to prevent the visit of pace-setting Wimbledon falling victim to the weather for a second time.

Come Wednesday morning, the straw brigade were 'on duty' once more, hoping to see their efforts end in another double triumph—a much needed cash boost through the game being on, plus another humbling of a top four club.

Manager McNeill is more than grateful for the volunteers help. He said: "They have done a good job everytime. The response has been great. We hired a machine to help clear the straw before the Portsmouth match, and by the time it arrived, three-quarters of the pitch had been cleared."

A small club like Latics depends a lot on people's desire to lend a hand and as it feels its way in the new surroundings of League football it's good to see that the intimacy between club and fan which was a hallmark of non-league days is still alive and kicking.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



I am delighted today to welcome to Springfield Park the Chairman and Directors of Huddersfield Town F.C. with the team, for their first ever fixture in Wigan. The Board of Directors feel very honoured to have the opportunity of being hosts to a club with such tradition.

When we visited Huddersfield earlier in the season we were received in good style and we shall today, as always, make every effort to hand out the same hospitality as we received. I sincerely hope today's game will be as entertaining as the one in Yorkshire.

Our game against Portsmouth last Saturday was only our second since 1st January; the previous one being at Port Vale on the 9th January. Considering the shortage of match

practice, it was a delight to see our lads in such splendid form. Our 2-0 win and the fact that we have won our last nine home games proves that our entry into League Football was no mistake, especially as a gate of 8,289 further justified our successful application last June.

Since we became a member of the Football League the road has been far from easy. Our bad start to the season would have made less ardent directors and managers very despondent and tempted them to make numerous changes, perhaps for the worse. The Manager and the Board did, however, put all their faith in most of last season's team, and they have proved that we were right. Ian McNeill and his team have done a great job and we are grateful for their tremendous efforts. We are also grateful for the splendid support—both home and away—this has certainly helped towards success.

Life has not been made any easier by the arctic conditions witnessed these past months. We have had only three home games since Boxing Day, and like many other clubs, we have suffered financially as a result of the lack of income. There is consolation, however, that there must come an end to such wintry conditions and all outstanding games will probably be played in very much improved weather. We hope so.

ARTHUR HORROCKS.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

SATURDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

LINE-UP

Wigan Athletic

- 1 John Brown
- 2 Kevin Smart
- 3 Joe Hinnigan
- 4 Tommy Gore
- 5 Noel Ward
- 6 Dave Fretwell
- 7 Frank Corrigan
- 8 Jeff Wright
- 9 Peter Houghton
- 10 Mickey Moore
- 11 Ian Purdie
- 12 Derek Brownbill

Referee :
Mr. J. HUNTING
(Leicester)

Linesmen :
Mr. G. Boothman
(Burnley)
Red Flag

Mr. R. F. Nixon
(Stockport)
Yellow Flag

FOR YOUR RECORD

Result :

Attendance :

Scorers :

Huddersfield Town

- 1 Alan Starling
- 2 Malcolm Brown
- 3 Phil Sandercock
- 4 Terry Gray
- 5 Chris Topping
- 6 Dave Sutton
- 7 Peter Fletcher
- 8 Peter Hart
- 9 Dave Cowling
- 10 Ian Robbins
- 11 Paul Bielby

TODAY'S REFEREE

JOHN HUNTING (Leicester). Commenced refereeing whilst with the Royal Signals in Egypt and Cyprus, then via Leicester Senior League and Football Combination; has been on the Football League full list since 1968. Was appointed to the F.I.F.A. Panel of International Referees in 1973. Officiated in the F.A. Cup Final of 1971/72, and International European competitions.

A married man, with three children, he is a Lecturer in Physical Education at the Leicester Polytechnic, and has a playing interest in badminton and squash. Is Hon. Treasurer to the Leicester Lawn Tennis Association. Last season visited Afghanistan as a F.I.F.A. representative for the Coca Cola World Football Development programme.

OPINION

by Harold Ashurst



6

While most people, inside and outside football, have labelled the million pound transfer of Trevor Francis to Nottingham Forest as outrageous, thinking about it, transfers of this calibre can go a long way to helping the Wigan's, Rochdale's and Huddersfield's of this world.

From the moment Francis signed for Brian Clough, then every other football player in the country went up in value automatically.

This point was summed up in an article on Latics last week in one of the national papers. The writer was commenting on the cost of the Latics players and, in particular of Peter Houghton, who cost a massive £150 from South Liverpool last season.

He asked, quite rightly, if Francis at a million pounds, was anywhere near 7,000 times better than Peter Houghton at £150. It would be ludicrous to say yes.

Francis went for a million, so the whole of the football transfer system moves up a notch in terms of cost.

The player who would have cost £200,000 now goes up to £275,000 for no reason at all except that one player in the country has been sold for a million pounds, so that clubs stick an extra £75,000 on their player.

The system has been wrong for many years. It's now going daft. But until there are changes, clubs will make the most out of it.

It is now a sellers market and players from the lower divisions will go for higher fees I'm sure since the Francis transfer.

I don't know how much Latics put on the heads of Tommy Gore, Noel Ward and the rest, but I would say another £10,000 has just been added since Mr. Clough acquired Francis for that magical figure.

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RESULTS 1978-79

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

Date	Opponents	Score	Gate	
1978				
Aug 19	Herford	0-0	5,674	x
Aug 23	GRIMSBY	0-3	9,227	x
Aug 26	Reading	0-2	4,788	x
Sept 2	WIMBLEDON	2-3	5,319	x
Sept 9	Wimbledon	1-2	3,217	x
Sept 13	ROCHDALE	3-0	5,746	x
Sept 16	BRAEFOORD	1-3	7,090	x
Sept 23	Yard	1-0	3,307	x
Sept 26	PARTSMOUTH	0-1	13,962	x
Oct 1	SOUTHORPE	1-0	4,459	x
Oct 1	Huddersfield	-1-1	5,150	x
Oct 14	DONCASTER	1-0	5,788	x
Oct 18	HALIFAX	1-0	5,216	x
Oct 21	Bansley	0-0	9,841	x
Oct 28	NORTHAMPTON	2-0	6,264	x
Nov 4	Stockport	1-0	8,367	x
Nov 10	Newport	1-2	4,143	x
Nov 18	READING	3-0	5,858	x
Nov 25	BURY (FA 1)	2-2	10,142	x
Dec 2	TORQUAY			
Dec 9	Darlington	1-1	1,963	x
Dec 16	Halifax	2-1	2,437	x
Dec 23	Port Vale	1-2	3,746	x
Dec 26	CREWE	1-0	1,586	x
Dec 30	ALDERSHOT	3-2	7,289	x
1979				
Jan 1	Hartlepool			
Jan 6	Rochdale			
Jan 13	WIMBLEDON			
Jan 20	Bradford			
Jan 27	YORK			
Feb 3	PORTSMOUTH	2-0	8,289	x
Feb 10	Scunthorpe			
Feb 17	HUDDERSFIELD			
Feb 24	Doncaster			
Mar 3	BARNESLEY			
Mar 10	Nochampton			
Mar 17	STOCKPORT			
Mar 24	Grimbsby			
Mar 28	HEREFORD			
Apr 1	BOURNEMOUTH			
Apr 7	Torquay			
Apr 13	PORT VALE			
Apr 14	Craws			
Apr 16	HARTLEPOOL			
Apr 21	Aldershot			
May 24	DARLINGTON			
May 28	Bournemouth			
May 12	F A CUP FINAL			

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978	F-A	1979	F-A
August—		January—	
18—Blackpool 'A'	H 2-1	1—Oldham Ath. Res.	H(Mn.)
25—Southport Res	H 1-1	6—Morecambe Res.	H
September—		13—Port Vale Res.	A
2—Everton 'A'	A 2-1	20—Manchester City 'A'	H
9—Chester 'A'	H 1-3	27—Macclesfield T. Res	A
15—Tranmere R. Res.	A 0-0	February—	
16—		3—Bradford City Res	A
23—Bradford City Res.	H 5-0	10—Crewe Alex Res	H 5-0
30—Liverpool 'A'	A 1-2	17—Manchester Utd 'A'	A
October—		24—Oldham Ath Res	A
7—Rochdale Res	H 2-2	March—	
14—Rochdale Res.	A 0-1	3—Carlisle Res	A
21—Carlisle Utd Res	H 2-0	10—Stockport County 'A'	H
27—Stockport County 'A'	A 8-0	17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	A
November—		24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	H
11—Tranmere R. Res	H 2-2	31—Wrexham Res	A
18—Crewe Alex 'A'	A 3-3	April—	
25—Manchester City 'A'	A 2-1	7—Manchester Utd 'A'	H
December—		13—Southport Res	A (Fri.)
2—Blackpool 'A'	H	15—Wrexham Res	H
9—Port Vale Res	H 3-1	16—	
13—Macclesfield T. Res	H 5-1	21—Liverpool A	H
16—Chester 'A'	A	28—	
26—		May—	
30—Morecambe Res	A 5-0	5—Everton 'A'	H

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